

OCT 22 2007

Attorney Docket: 030400
U.S. Application No.: 10/673,849 Examiner: Deane Art Unit: 2614
Response to July 25, 2007 Office Action**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~communications system for providing call waiting suppression, the system~~ comprising:

means for processing an incoming communication to a receiving party's communications device, the receiving party's communication device already engaged in an ongoing communication;

means for processing an incoming communications signal, the incoming communications signal from a calling party's communications device to the receiving party's communications device;

means for associating a call waiting suppression profile with the receiving party, the call waiting suppression profile comprising a timing parameter for suppressing alerts of the incoming communications signal to the receiving party's communications device;

means for causing an initial alert to the receiving party to alert of the incoming communication; and

thereafter, means for suppressing subsequent alerts of the incoming communication according to the timing parameter, such that after the initial alert is caused, the subsequent alerts are deactivated

~~a communications dataserver communicating with a communications network, the communications dataserver storing a call waiting suppression profile comprising at least one of (i) an identifier of call waiting suppression reference data and (ii) a timing parameter for suppressing an alert of an incoming communications signal to a receiving party's communications device engaged in an ongoing communication; and~~

~~a call waiting suppression application communicating with at least one of the communications network, the communications dataserver, and the receiving party's communications device, the call waiting suppression application generating a call waiting suppression signal, the call waiting suppression signal for deactivating the alert of the incoming communications signal according to the call waiting suppression profile.~~

Attorney Docket: 030400
U.S. Application No.: 10/673,849 Examiner: Deane Art Unit: 2614
Response to July 25, 2007 Office Action

2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising means for causing an initial audible alert to the receiving party wherein the communications network comprises at least one of a public switched telephone network, a mobile switching telephone communications network, and a satellite communications network.
3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising means for sending caller identification information to the receiving party, the caller identification information alerting the receiving party to the incoming communication wherein the receiving party's communications device comprises at least one of the following:
- a POTS phone,
 - a wireless communications device,
 - a mobile phone,
 - a wireless phone,
 - a WAP phone,
 - a satellite phone
 - a computer,
 - a modem,
 - a pager,
 - a digital music device,
 - a digital recording device,
 - a personal digital assistant,
 - an interactive television,
 - a digital signal processor, and
 - a Global Positioning System device.
4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising means for silencing a second, subsequent audible alert of the incoming communication the communications network further comprising a data network having a call waiting suppression interface via at least one of an internet, an intranet, or an extranet.

Attorney Docket: 030400
U.S. Application No.: 10/673,849 Examiner: Deane Art Unit: 2614
Response to July 25, 2007 Office Action

5. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising means for silencing subsequent audible alerts according to a time period defined by the timing parameter the communications network further comprising a speech-to-text interface with the call waiting suppression application, the speech-to-text interface operable to configure an audio format of call waiting suppression parameters for the call waiting suppression profile to a text format of call waiting suppression parameters for the call waiting suppression profile.
6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising:
- means for causing an initial audible alert to the receiving party;
means for silencing all subsequent audible alerts of the incoming communication;
and
means for sending caller identification information to the receiving party, the caller identification information alerting the receiving party to the incoming communication
- wherein the communications datasever facilitates call waiting suppression services comprising at least one of (i) billing for communication of the call waiting suppression signal over the communications network, (ii) a schedule parameter that enables call waiting suppression for times of day and days of week, (iii) a deactivate schedule parameter that disables call waiting suppression for times of day and days of week, (iv) an identification and authentication parameter associated with the receiving party's communications device, (v) memory services for data stored with call waiting suppression signals, and (vi) configuration and formatting preferences for the receiving party's communications device.
7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein when the incoming communication is from an unknown party, then further comprising means for suppressing the initial alert

Attorney Docket: 030400
U.S. Application No.: 10/673,849 Examiner: Deane Art Unit: 2614
Response to July 25, 2007 Office Action

~~wherein the identifier of call waiting suppression reference data comprises at least one of (i) a telephone number, (ii) a directory name, (iii) a date/time identifier, (iv) a geographical identifier, and (v) a caller control signal.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 7 1, further comprising:

means for receiving caller identification information associated with the calling party; and

means for retrieving the timing parameter associated with the caller identification information

~~the call waiting suppression reference data is associated with at least one of the incoming communications signal and an outgoing communications signal.~~

9. (Currently Amended) A call waiting suppression system, comprising:

means for receiving an incoming communications signal at a receiving party's communications device, the receiving party's communication device already engaged in an ongoing communication, the incoming communications signal identifying an incoming communication from a calling party's communications device;

means for associating a call waiting suppression profile with the receiving party, the call waiting suppression profile comprising a timing parameter for suppressing alerts of the incoming communications signal to the receiving party's communications device;

means for causing an initial alert to the receiving party to alert of the incoming communication; and

thereafter, means for suppressing subsequent alerts of the incoming communication according to the timing parameter, such that after the initial alert is caused, the subsequent alerts are deactivated

Attorney Docket: 030400
U.S. Application No.: 10/673,849 Examiner: Deane Art Unit: 2614
Response to July 25, 2007 Office Action

~~a first switch communicating with a calling party communications device, the calling party communications device transmitting an incoming communications signal to a communications network;~~

~~the communications network operable to process an incoming line identification (ICLID) signal of the incoming communications signal to generate a call waiting suppression signal and operable to transmit the incoming communications signal and the call waiting suppression signal to a second switch; and~~

~~the second switch communicating at least one of the incoming communications signal and the call waiting suppression signal to a receiving party's communications device, the second switch processing the call waiting suppression signal to suppress an alert of the incoming communications signal to the receiving party's communications device when the receiving party's communications device is engaged in an ongoing communication.~~

10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 9, wherein the means for causing an initial alert comprises means for causing an initial audible alert ~~is suppressed after the receiving party's communications device plays an initial audible alert of the incoming communications signal such that subsequent audible alerts of the incoming communications signal are suppressed according to a timing parameter.~~
11. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 9, further comprising means for receiving caller identification information that alerts the receiving party to the incoming communication ~~wherein the receiving party's communications device comprises means for displaying a visual indicator of the incoming communications signal, the visual indicator providing at least one of (i) data associated with the incoming line identification signal, (ii) data associated with the call waiting suppression signal, and (iii) a signal to a light source indicating communication of the incoming communication, wherein the visual indicator displays a visual alert of the incoming communication.~~

Attorney Docket: 030400
U.S. Application No.: 10/673,849 Examiner: Deane Art Unit: 2614
Response to July 25, 2007 Office Action

12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, further comprising means for silencing a second subsequent audible alert of the incoming communication wherein the visual indicator is stored by the receiving party's communications device.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of call waiting suppression system, comprising:

receiving an incoming communications signal at a receiving party's communications device, the receiving party's communication device already engaged in an ongoing communication, the incoming communications signal identifying an incoming communication from a calling party's communications device;

associating a call waiting suppression profile with the receiving party, the call waiting suppression profile comprising a timing parameter for suppressing alerts of the incoming communications signal to the receiving party's communications device;

causing an initial alert to the receiving party to alert of the incoming communication; and

thereafter, suppressing subsequent alerts of the incoming communication according to the timing parameter, such that after the initial alert is caused, the subsequent alerts are deactivated

~~a telecommunications server for processing an incoming communication, the incoming communication from a calling telephone number to a called telephone number associated with a receiving party's communications device, the incoming communication comprising an incoming line identification (ICLID) signal, the telecommunications server also processing a call waiting suppression signal for the called telephone number, the call waiting suppression signal for suppressing an alert of the incoming communication to the receiving party's communications device when the receiving party's communications device is engaged in an ongoing communication.~~

14. (Currently Amended) The system method of claim 13, wherein causing the initial alert comprises causing an initial audible alert the alert is suppressed after the receiving party's

Attorney Docket: 030400
U.S. Application No.: 10/673,849 Examiner: Deane Art Unit: 2614
Response to July 25, 2007 Office Action

~~communications device plays an audible alert of the incoming communication such that at least one subsequent audible alert is suppressed.~~

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~system method~~ of claim 14 13, further comprising receiving caller identification information that alerts the receiving party to the incoming communication wherein the subsequent audible alert is selected according to a time parameter.
16. (Currently Amended) The ~~system method~~ of claim 15 13, further comprising silencing a second, subsequent audible alert of the incoming communication wherein the time parameter ranges from approximately one second to approximately two minutes.
17. (Currently Amended) The ~~system method~~ of claim 15 13, wherein when the incoming communication is from an unknown party, then further comprising suppressing the initial alert the time parameter is greater than about two minutes.
18. (Currently Amended) A method for call waiting suppression, comprising the steps of:

processing an incoming communication to a receiving party's communications device, the receiving party's communication device already engaged in an ongoing communication;

processing an incoming communications signal, the incoming communications signal from a calling party's communications device to the [[a]] receiving party's communications device;

associating an incoming line identification (ICLID) signal with the incoming communications signal;

associating a call waiting suppression profile with the ICLID signal receiving party, the call waiting suppression profile comprising at least one of (i) an identifier of a calling party, (ii) a communications address, (iii) an identifier of a calling party's communications device, and (iv) a timing parameter for suppressing alerts an alert of the

Attorney Docket: 030400
U.S. Application No.: 10/673,849 Examiner: Deane Art Unit: 2614
Response to July 25, 2007 Office Action

incoming communications signal to the receiving party's communications device ~~when the receiving party's communications device is engaged in an ongoing communication;~~

causing an initial alert to the receiving party to alert of the incoming communication; and

thereafter, suppressing subsequent alerts of the incoming communication according to the timing parameter, such that after the initial alert is caused, the subsequent alerts are deactivated ~~generating a call waiting suppression signal, the call waiting suppression signal operable to deactivate the alert of the incoming communication according to the call waiting suppression profile.~~

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein causing the initial alert comprises causing an initial audible alert to the receiving party further comprising the steps of:

~~communicating at least one of the incoming communications signal, the incoming line identification signal, and the call waiting suppression signal to the receiving party's communications device;~~

~~playing an initial audible alert of the incoming communication to the receiving party's communications device; and~~

~~suppressing at least one subsequent audible alert to the receiving party's communications device according to the timing parameter.~~

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein causing the initial alert comprises sending caller identification information to the receiving party, the caller identification information alerting the receiving party to the incoming communication further comprising the step of:

~~communicating data associated with at least one of the communications signal, the incoming line identification signal, and the call waiting suppression signal to the receiving party's communications device.~~

Attorney Docket: 030400
U.S. Application No.: 10/673,849 Examiner: Deane Art Unit: 2614
Response to July 25, 2007 Office Action

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein suppressing the subsequent alerts comprises silencing a second, subsequent audible alert of the incoming communication ~~the step of generating the call waiting suppression signal comprises generating the call waiting suppression signal according to the timing parameter, the timing parameter ranging from approximately one second to approximately two minutes.~~
22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein suppressing the subsequent alerts comprises silencing subsequent audible alerts according to a time period defined by the timing parameter ~~the step of generating the call waiting suppression signal comprises generating the call waiting suppression signal according to the timing parameter, the timing parameter greater than about two minutes.~~
23. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising processor executable instructions for performing a method of call waiting suppression, the method comprising ~~communications method, comprising the steps of:~~
- receiving an incoming communications signal at a receiving party's communications device, the receiving party's communication device already engaged in an ongoing communication, the incoming communications signal identifying an incoming communication from a calling party's communications device;
- associating a call waiting suppression profile with the receiving party, the call waiting suppression profile comprising a timing parameter for suppressing alerts of the incoming communications signal to the receiving party's communications device;
- causing an initial alert to the receiving party to alert of the incoming communication; and
- thereafter, suppressing subsequent alerts of the incoming communication according to the timing parameter, such that after the initial alert is caused, the subsequent alerts are deactivated

Attorney Docket: 030400
U.S. Application No.: 10/673,849 Examiner: Deane Art Unit: 2614
Response to July 25, 2007 Office Action

~~processing an incoming communications signal communication receiving an incoming communications signal from a calling party's communications device to a communications network, the communications network comprising a database of one or more call waiting suppression profiles; and~~

~~processing a call waiting suppression signal using a database of call waiting suppression profiles, the call waiting suppression signal comprising (i) an identifier of call waiting suppression reference data and (ii) a timing parameter for suppressing an incoming communications indicator of the receiving party's communications device,~~

~~wherein the identifier of call waiting suppression reference data comprises at least one of (i) a telephone number, (ii) a directory name, (iii) a date/time identifier, (iv) a geographical identifier, and (v) a caller control signal, and wherein the incoming communications indicator comprises at least one of (i) an audible indicator, (ii) a vibrator, (iii) a visual indicator, and (iv) a sensory indicator.~~

24. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising processor executable instructions for performing a method of call waiting suppression, the method comprising:

processing an incoming communication to a receiving party's communications device, the receiving party's communication device already engaged in an ongoing communication;

processing an incoming communications signal, the incoming communications signal from a calling party's communications device to the receiving party's communications device;

associating a call waiting suppression profile with the receiving party, the call waiting suppression profile comprising a timing parameter for suppressing alerts of the incoming communications signal to the receiving party's communications device;

causing an initial alert to the receiving party to alert of the incoming communication; and

Attorney Docket: 030400
U.S. Application No.: 10/673,849 Examiner: Deane Art Unit: 2614
Response to July 25, 2007 Office Action

thereafter, suppressing subsequent alerts of the incoming communication according to the timing parameter, such that after the initial alert is caused, the subsequent alerts are deactivated

~~a computer-readable medium; and~~

~~a call waiting suppression program stored on the computer-readable medium, the call waiting suppression program suppressing an alert of an incoming communications signal to a communications device while the communications device is engaged in an ongoing communication.~~